

The "Jeani" can HELP you BUY or SELL It's Magic!

CALL DIRECT
905-988.8491

JEAN HAAPAMAKI
REALTOR/REPRESENTATIVE

COLORADO BANKERS MCMARTIN REALTY
MCMARTIN REALTY 905-892-0790



PelhamNEWS

Published by Osprey Media Publishing Inc. • Issue No. XX Volume 16

Cindy Raskob
Sales Representative

craskob@royallepage.ca
www.CindyRaskob.ca

Hire... WITH CONFIDENCE!

ROYAL LEPAGE 905-892-0222
905-321-8306



■ **ECONOMY:** Regional Silver Stick just one economic booster for Welland

Hockey tourneys big for tourism

KATHLEEN CLARK
For PelhamNEWS

WELLAND — On a weekday so soon after Christmas, John Paraskevopoulos wouldn't normally open his store.

But the Niagara Silver Stick regional hockey tournament is on and he happens to own the tuck shop at Welland Arena. That means kids need Gatorade, parents need coffee and everyone needs a hot dog.

"I've been here 16 years. I've seen it all."

But what he'd like to see more of, he says, are tournaments.

"Tournaments make our business a success," the Express Cafe owner says.

Paraskevopoulos says his bottom line is more than just a bit higher during a tournament.

see **ECONOMY** | page 2



More tournaments, more people, more tourist dollars, says the owner of Express Cafe, John Paraskevopoulos.

KATHLEEN CLARK PelhamNEWS Photo

SNOW REMOVAL



✓ Residential & Commercial
✓ Affordable and Reliable Service
✓ We use Snow Blowers, Shovels & Plows

PERSONAL TOUCH

HOME IMPROVEMENTS -
Call Today 905-892-6177 or pthi@pthi.ca



DEBBIE PINE
Sales Representative
www.pinesold.com

ROYAL LEPAGE

Niagara Real Estate Centre, Brokerage
Independently Owned & Operated

#1 Producer for Royal LePage Fonthill, 2010 • Diamond Award Winner 2010
• Award of Excellence 2010 • #5 Individual Producer for Royal LePage Niagara, 2010

Office: 905-892-0222 • Sell: 905-321-2261 • debbiepine@royallepage.ca

upfront

■ ECONOMY

Increased arena traffic pays dividends

FROM PAGE 1

"Bigtime," he says. "It goes up double or triple.... Tournaments bring people to the arenas. They stay. They buy."

These extra sales stem from out-of-towners whose only reason to be in Welland is to see their children shine on the ice. This is sports tourism at work. And it doesn't stop at the hockey rink.

What Paraskevopoulos experiences at his concession stand during a tournament like the Silver Stick is a miniature version of what the whole city of Welland can be getting from hosting competitions, says Deb Zahra, the owner of the Niagara St.

Boston Pizza and member of the Welland Sport Tourism Alliance. For the most part, when a tournament around, so is the money.

"I could honestly say when the watersports are in town, our business is generally up about 10%. That's directly attributable to what's happening in the water."

Teams come in by the 20s, she says. Over the July long weekend this year, dragon boaters reserved a table for 40.

"Those people bring in a lot of money and a lot of business."

Tournaments like Silver Stick bring in folks like the Trigianis and the Diemerts

from Burlington. Even though they don't stay overnight, they say they are a likely influx of money. As they stand in the lobby of the Welland youth arena waiting for the Eagles pee-wee team members to change out of their gear, Julie Trigiani and Nicole Diemert, hockey moms, both say shopping will be in their near future.

"There's always two or three hours between games," Trigiani points out.

And of course, lunch.

"We always have shoppers and eaters — that's a given," Diemert says.

Though it's the latter who drive Zahra's business, she says these sporadic growths

in Welland's population affect the whole community.

"(Sports tourism) will drive Welland forward," she says. "It keeps me paying my taxes and paying my staff!"

And it keeps her hiring, she says.

"We like to say we're in business for Welland. We bring in extra dollars and we send dollars back into the community... sports tourism benefits every single person in the city."

Doug Thomson, president of Welland Minor Hockey Association, understands the economic boost a tournament can provide. He says he'd love to see more

hockey tournaments hosted by Welland. "When you start doing the math, most teams have 15 or 16 kids," he says.

Add to that at least one parent and the coaching staff, he says, and multiply it by the two teams that played and 70 is a low estimate for a total. You start adding siblings, aunts and uncles, and the number just grows.

"It's a great way to bring money into the community from outside but with the risk situation we're limited as to what we can do. Basically there's not enough ice in the Niagara region."

Having only two rinks in the city can make logistics a bit tricky. The upcoming

Ernie Clayton Memorial Tournament in January will see WMHA hit the limit of what it can run, he says.

"We have a waiting list with 24 teams," he says. "We're pretty much maxed out."

In their heyday, he says, Welland's Little NHL competition could bring in 86 teams. That tournament was scratched this year.

"We're hoping to restart the Little NHL next year (2012)."

That's good news for Paraskevopoulos. He says with that kind of crowd he could pull in five or six times his regular profit.

"The more people here, the more money."

■ MUNICIPAL PROJECTS

Revitalized Pelham poised for growth in 2012

ALLAN BENNER
PelhamNEWS Staff

PELHAM — The town of Pelham has been revitalized after a year of major infrastructure projects. But there is still plenty of work left to accomplish in the months ahead, says Mayor Dave Augustyn.

The town completed a number of major infrastructure projects that included the revitalization of downtown Fonthill and the completion of Haist St. reconstruction.

The completion of a new fire station in Fenwick was another big accomplishment for the town in the past year.

"Completing those things were important achievements. It shows what can be done," Augustyn says.

"We've seen so many new businesses open in Fonthill lately, or relocating into the downtown because of the reconstruction. It's really revitalized business."

Meanwhile, residents throughout Pelham have a new

sense of pride in their community, he says.

"They can now point to a downtown and say, 'This is what our community is about.' It kind of builds the community."

Events such as Summerfest, held to celebrate the completion of the revitalization project, and Christmas in Pelham are examples of that renewed sense of community.

The town is embracing that enhanced community spirit through the creation of a new

Pelham promotional committee, a citizens group that will help promote the town and its businesses through festivals and events.

Augustyn says many of the projects completed in 2011 were started by the previous town council.

Looking ahead, Augustyn lists several projects to be completed in 2012.

One priority is the development of a new official plan, replacing a plan that dates back to 1973.

He says he's hoping town council can approve its new official plan as well as the fifth Fonthill secondary plan within the first quarter of 2012.

As result of those new planning documents, the mayor says the town will be able to continue to grow and develop.

"It's estimated that there will be growth for 5,000 new residents in that area," he says. "We're almost adding another third to Pelham's population — or a quarter for sure. It's quite an important factor for

our future."

He says the town has teamed up with Niagara Region to pay for some "major construction" in 2012, including new sidewalks and road widening on Regional Rd. 20 between Rice Rd. and Station St.

The town is also planning enhancements to Effingham Rd., between Killman and Sixteen Rds., including sight-line improvements and a road widening to make the area safer for pedestrians and cyclists.

Our Family Serving Your Family
For 100 Years
Since 1911

Lampman
Funeral Home

724 CANBORO ROAD
FENWICK (905) 892-4701



Irvine Muir Terry Mikolasek



Wheelchair
Accessible

tempo

■ **SEASONAL GIVING:** Hundreds of families and individuals were supported over the holidays by generous donors■ **PELHAM CARES**

A community that cares

MARYANNE FIRTH
Tribune Staff

WELLAND — Christmastime is known as the season of giving.

And nowhere does that sentiment ring truer than in south Niagara.

A helping hand was available in every corner of the community in both Welland and Port Colborne in hopes of making the holidays a time that everyone could enjoy — regardless of their financial situation.

Through the Christmas hamper program facilitated by Welland agencies Salvation Army, The Hope Centre and St. Vincent de Paul, 1,977 individuals were helped this season — 880 of them aged 16 and under.

This year's registrant total is about the same as years past, said Salvation Army executive director Greg Warkentin, and also includes 105 families who were adopted by local schools, businesses and community members.

Family adoption is a growing trend, Warkentin said. More and more groups and even families offered purchasing gifts for one another in order to provide an unforgettable holiday experience for a less fortunate family.

This year's Christmas hamper program was run a bit differently than in years past.

Last year, for the first time, the hamper program was only offered to families and not single adults. This year, the program returned to offering hampers to both groups.

Also new this year was a partnership with Holy Trinity Church, which offered up its building for use in distributing the Christmas gifts.

The partnership between the three agencies and local church has proven successful this year.



MARYANNE FIRTH Staff Photo

Hope Centre food security co-ordinator Gina Coudry and Salvation Army executive director Greg Warkentin hold some of the remaining toy donations that will be kept for next year's Christmas hamper program.

"We all have limited resources," Warkentin said.

"But it's wonderful to be able to share the resources we do have."

By pooling limited funds together, the agencies are able to help more people, he added.

In Port Colborne, the need for assistance was also great.

At least 360 families found their holidays brightened by Santa's Helpers.

It was a successful year for the group that provides food, clothing and toys to families in need over the holidays.

The number of people coming in for assistance increased this year, and so did the number of new

faces that Mieke Van Es saw pass through the doors of Community Living Port Colborne-Wainfleet, where Santa's Helpers were stationed.

The program's co-ordinator said the Christmas season came on quickly for many lakeside city residents who recently lost their jobs, were laid off or were waiting for Employment Insurance to kick in.

But with the help of more than 50 volunteers and many generous donations from the community, the program was able to assist each registrant who sought some Christmas cheer.

"Donations were wonderful

this year," Van Es said, crediting local residents, corporations and schools for pitching in and giving what they could to make the holidays more enjoyable for others.

She expressed the appreciation all families showed as they received their early Christmas presents.

"We want to thank the whole community, everyone from Port Colborne, Wainfleet and Sherston who helped out."

Also embracing the Christmas spirit was Lakeshore Catholic High School, which held its annual Christmas Toy and Food Drive.

Through the initiative more

What really makes the drive special though are the acts of generosity and little miracles that occur as staff and students rally to meet the challenge each year."

Kathryn Mistry,
chaplaincy leader

than 400 toys, more than 100 gift cards and countless food bank donations were collected for various agencies in Port Colborne-Wainfleet, Crystal Beach and Port Erie.

"What really makes the drive special though are the acts of generosity and little miracles that occur as staff and students rally to meet the challenge each year," said the school's chaplaincy leader, Kathryn Mistry.

"Student council hosted a photo booth at the semi-formal (dinner dance). Other students enthusiastically took part in an out-of-uniform day to raise \$1,600."

Mistry said another student decided to part with his cherished dinosaur collection hoping that some younger child would enjoy the toy figures as much as he had.

On the last day of the drive, after hundreds of new toys had already been picked up by Santa's Helpers and St. Vincent de Paul, a final bag of toys was being assembled for children living at Casa Norte in Port Erie when it became apparent that there was no suitable toy left for an 18-month-old boy.

"Just then another student appeared rather apologetically for being a day late with her contribution. To everyone's amazement, she contributed a wonderful toy farm with the suggested age level of 18 months," Mistry said.

'They see the need and want to help'

PelhamNEWS Staff

PELHAM — The generosity of residents shone in Pelham this Christmas season.

Pelham Cares gave out 52 Christmas hampers which helped 71 adults and 61 children in town.

Jane Gilmour, vice-president of Pelham Cares, said this was a great season for the agency.

"It was very successful," she said. "Everyone was grateful for what they received and we had a lot of new volunteers interested in helping with food on regular basis. That has helped us immensely as well."

"Pelham Cares volunteers spent the month of December putting together the hampers in the old Fenwick fire hall while firefighters from Station 1 held their annual toy drive."

"We've been extremely blessed with the generous community," Gilmour said. "The firefighters' toy drive was great and the children were very well taken care of that way."

Pelham Cares was given enough donations this season to not only fill hampers with turkeys, chickens, vegetables and all the trimmings of a Christmas dinner, but it now has enough food to last until summer.

"I think (people in Pelham) recognize the need and all of us feel lucky if we don't have to be on the receiving end. They see the need and want to help."

Gilmour said the need for Christmas hampers was very similar to last year when Pelham Cares gave out 54 hampers. However, the number of people signing up for the food bank has risen quite a bit in the past two months.

Pelham NEWS

Published by PelhamNEWS
Sun Media Corp.
228 East Main St., Welland, ON L0S 1E0
Tel: 905-732-2404 ext.246 Fax: 905-732-3660
e-mail: pelhamnews@sunmedia.ca
advertising: trbcom@pelhamandlambton.ca
Ken Kayama

PUBLISHER, GENERAL MANAGER
Wayne Campbell, editor

SUN MEDIA
A Canadian Media Company

perspective

A stark reminder of waste failure

They're out there — breathtaking drills of blue, green, orange and silver, set against sparkling white snow. No, we're not talking holiday lights, but holiday bags, garbage cans and boxes.

In Ontario, and nationwide, Christmas ends at the curbside in a disposal dump so massive, some cities with even the most modest limits on household trash cast those aside to help us all get in the spirit.

OK, so you're allowed to chuck out more because the holidays might delay your trash pickup and you might — the horrors off! — have to deal with frozen garbage a few days longer. Still, does anything scream out enviro-humbug more than all that post-Christmas excess? Couldn't we toss Mother Nature a bone and cut back?

Ontarians may like to think they sing from downy, downy, downy, downy, but clearly most of us don't want to learn the lyrics. We fingerpoint at the U.S. for all the filthy air it sends Ontario's way, but we still burn its cheap Appalachian coal — the dirtiest on the continent — to heat the crack-fired power plants that we were supposed to close in 2007.

That Green Shift, like Stephanie Dion touted? Forget he was such a lousy salesperson; we're not buying carbon taxes from anyone. And remember last year's revolt over that sneaky eco-tax on Ontario, slapped on all kinds of consumer goods to help pay to keep the bad stuff out of landfills later? Taxpayers made the government back down, all right. But a province that can't balance its books instead decided to pay municipalities to look after the problem and add it onto the debt taxpayers shoulder.

In his year-end report, Ontario's environmental commissioner found the province is falling at waste diversion, only slinking about 23% of its refuse away from landfills and incinerators compared to the 60% target it set for 2008.

Give these numbers any sea you walk your Christmas trash to the curb: Ontario generates about 33,000 tonnes of waste a day, or 12 million tonnes a year. That's more than 900 kilograms a person every year, almost the same weight a small car can carry. Talk about saving a big black bow on Christmas.

— Greg Van Moorse

comment

2011: Quite a short year in history



Gwynne Dyer
AROUND THE WORLD

Every year brings changes, but some years really are turning points: 1492, 1789, 1914, and 1989, for example.

Does 2011 belong in the august company of such Really Important Years? Probably not, but it definitely qualifies for membership in the second tier of Quite Important Years.

Three big stories ran right through the year, any one of which would have qualified 2011 for membership status. The Arab Spring is an epochal event, even if democratic revolutions may fall in some countries in the end. The euro crisis threatens the European Union with collapse and confirms the shift of economic power from West to East. And the struggle to prevent disastrous climate change was abandoned for the rest of the decade.

The name, it should be noted, is the Arab Spring, not the Muslim Spring, because a majority of the world's Muslims already live in countries that are democratic: Turkey, Indonesia, Malaysia, Bangladesh, Pakistan, and even Iran (in roughly descending order of how democratic they really are). But the Arab countries seemed remarkably impervious to democracy — until it suddenly became clear they weren't.

The revolutions in Tunisia, Egypt and Libya were not just about elections. They were revolts against the arrogance and corruption of the ruling elites, against poverty, against the reign of fear that underpinned all of those regimes. But there was and still is a genuine democratic idealism at the heart of these revolutions, and despite all the disappointments and detours that will inevitably follow, something profound has changed in the Arab world.

Similar revolutions could well succeed in other Arab countries in the coming year, but in some cases they may not even be necessary. Formerly autocratic monarchies like Jordan and Morocco are in full retreat, hoping to safeguard their privileges by granting political freedoms to the people. And the long and increasingly bloody struggle in Syria could still end in a relatively peaceful transition to democracy, but not a civil war.

We should have learned not to underestimate people by now. The Arab Spring is the culmination of

a wave of non-violent revolutions that started in Asia in the 1980s (Philippines, South Korea, Thailand, Indonesia, Bangladesh, plus failed attempts in China and Burma). They spread to Eastern Europe and the former Soviet Union in 1989-91, ended apartheid in South Africa in 1994, and brought down Slobodan Milosevic in Serbia in 2000.

There was a decade-long gap, but now they're back, and not just in the Arab world. The ruthless Burmese regime is retreating from power under relentless pressure from the pro-democracy movement led by Aung San Suu Kyi, and even Vladimir Putin in Moscow must suddenly feel vulnerable as he watches the crowds come out in Russia to demand their country back.

Non-violence works. It will even work in China eventually. From the sublime to the ridiculous, the decade-old euro, which aspired to become the common currency of the European Union and even a rival to the U.S. dollar, is in acute danger of collapse, and the efforts of European leaders to save it have been comically inept.

Seventeen of the 27 countries in the EU, including all the big economies except Britain's, use the euro, but that number may drop

sharply in the next few years. It might even drop to zero.

The euro was a political project from the start, and it may also die of politics. The initial idea was that a common currency would bind the EU members closer together, but it never made any sense for low-productivity economies like Spain, Italy and Greece to use the same currency as high-performing economies like Germany.

The only way it could have worked was for the richer countries to subsidize the poorer countries forever (like the richer regions of France or Japan subsidizing the poorer regions).

Then, provided that there was a powerful central bank to stop the poorer countries from borrowing too much (because they now had a strong currency, which let them borrow almost unlimited amounts of money at very low rates), the whole project might work.

The richer countries like Germany and France had no intention of subsidizing the poorer ones, and they wouldn't allow a powerful central bank either, but the project went ahead anyway.

The euro might have stumbled on, amid growing difficulties for another decade — but the international financial crisis of 2008 put an end to that.

When the tide goes out, as legendary investor Warren Buffett put it, you find out who's been swimming naked. The European economies were as naked as jaybirds, and so the vultures began to circle (to mix a metaphor).

Every month of this year has seen another "crisis summit" meeting of EU leaders, but they have produced no credible solution to the economic problems because the richer countries are still unwilling to subsidize the poorer ones.

white matter from the knowledge base of the brain to the frontal lobe where they stimulate the required emotions to motivate appropriate social actions. The brain of a high school student cannot do this since it is physically impossible in the absence of any white matter.

All high school students must be supervised.

It is not their fault.

Gary Atamanik
Fonthill



Benjamin Moore

• Let us Paint For You

• FREE Estimates

Fonthill Paint & Decorating

For all of your Decorating Needs

Residential and Commercial Painting Services

98 Hwy 20, Fonthill (beside Sabey's) 905-892-8977 • e-mail: fpa@fonthillpaintanddecorating.com

More can be done to supervise our youth

As a past public school trustee (Pelham 1990) and current high school teacher, I believe student parties freely promoted or advertised on school board property are de facto school-sanctioned events. When school administrators know where a party will take place, school personnel should attend that party location

to prevent problems. Both the school board and parents should be held financially responsible for negative student actions due to a lack of supervision in these cases. A published police protocol pertaining to police expectations and appropriate actions that may be taken would be helpful to promote understanding and accountability by school boards, parents, students and the community at large.

Presently, I believe that school

boards and the police do not properly supervise our youth. Either they do not care or they do not know that brain research performed at York University has failed to attempt to explain it is physically impossible for persons under 17 1/2 years of age to translate their personal knowledge into responsible social actions. The white brain matter required to do this is totally absent and just begins to develop at this age. Signals must pass through this

■ CRAFTS

sock addict

CHERYL CLOCK
QMI Agency

She didn't wear her happy socks.

They were in the wash. But, had she pulled on a pair of the woolly, multi-coloured fluorescent socks with kitty ears and equally adorable feline face, she is quite certain they would have made an impression.

"When I wear them to work, people say, 'Can't you find something to match them?'" One day, she will. Just you wait. And that surely will be the day her co-workers at the Pelham Public Library will need to don sunglasses with UV protection. Usually, the socks on her feet come via the knitting needles in her hands.

By her own admission, Elaine Anderson, the public services co-ordinator at the library, is also a sock addict. Worse still, a homemaker, knitted sock addict. And this month, she will be attempting to hook people on her passion for the knitted sock during a series of six classes at the Pelham Library. Or, at the very least, assure the doubtful knitter that creating socks with four needles need not be intimidating.

Sock-mania Knitting is for people who knit, but who have never tried socks. She will guide them through sock construction, from cuff to toe, and everyone will make a miniature version.

Elaine, 54, learned to knit as a young girl, probably because she was bored one day at her grandmother's house. Her first knitted product was a rug for her Barbie dolls.

She's never made a sweater. Or an afghan. Maybe a few scarves. "But scarves are boring," she says, smiling.

"You go one way, and then back the other way." And more recently, she's made some Barbie clothes for the young folk in her life.

But for some, hard-to-explain reason, socks have stuck.

"It speaks to my creative part," she says.

She'll look up patterns at online sites like ravelry.com, and then put her own style on them. Maybe

a rattled edge on the cuff. Or a pattern on the ribbing.

"You can do really cool stuff with the tops," she says.

Knitting is calming. Relaxing. "Unless you have to pull something out," she says.

"And if you knit, you will have to pull something out."

Mistakes notwithstanding, the repetitive rhythm, the ever-so-slight clinking of needles, is magical.

And portable. She knits in restaurants. In cafes. In the car (as a passenger). She knits at choir practice (only when the director is working with another section, of course.)

But only because she was trying to get everything done for the holiday season.

"I'm not a crazy knitter," Oh, and she sometimes knits during meetings. And, well, she did bring her needles to the Welland high school reunion a couple years back.

But that's about it. She stuffs everything into a portable tote and off she goes.

"The first time I went to Mary Maxim, I bought enough wool that they gave me a nice bag," she says, smiling.

That would be Mary Maxim, purveyor of all that is yarn in Paris.

Did she mention she hits the road with a friend and they somehow end up at yarn shops? She almost attended the TTC Knitting in Toronto last year. A "yarn crawl," as she calls it. Think pub crawl, but with yarn instead of beer.

Fact is, her knitting passion has become somewhat entwined with her literary interests. She's a fan of Maggie Sefton's knitting mysteries, including bestseller, *Skein of the Crime*. She follows Stephanie Pearl-McPhee's Yarn Harlot blog. And if you're looking for a how-to book, the library type in her might recommend the *Stitch 'N Bitch* series by Debbie Stoller.

Inevitably, people ask why she goes to the trouble of knitting socks when she can buy them for half the price in half the time? Or less.

First off, there's nothing more comfortable than a superby

fitting pair of knit socks, she says. Think custom everything. Top-to-bottom length. Heel size. Cuff width. Everything.

Indeed, you haven't experienced true success until you've finished off the toe of a knitted sock without anyone being able to detect where the two sections join up, she says.

In fact, Elaine can think of no better gift to receive, or give for that matter.

"As I'm stitching, I'm thinking about that person," she says. "It's love woven between the..." She cuts short her thought. "Naah, that's maybe too..."

OK, Try this. "I tell people these socks are not perfect," she says. "And that just goes to show you that even if someone or something is not perfect, you can still love them."

Just like her happy socks.



For other courses, visit www.pelhamlibrary.on.ca



CHERYL CLOCK QMI Agency

Self-described knitted sock addict, Elaine Anderson (program services co-ordinator at the Pelham Public Library), will be offering a Sock Mania class. It's for knitters who want to learn how to make socks from the cuff down. She is photographed with some of her creations.

at **Gallaghers**
Farm Market & Garden Centre
www.gallaghersreformmarket.com

SEASONED FIREWOOD
SPECIAL ON MAC, IDA RED, RED DELICIOUS AND JONA GOLDS \$8.00 1/2 BUSHEL

GALLAGHER'S WOULD LIKE TO WISH EVERYONE A HAPPY NEW YEAR!

FRESH LOCAL PIES • FRUIT BASKETS AVAILABLE

The store will be closed Dec. 25th & Dec. 26th. We will be open Dec. 27 to Dec. 31st from 8 a.m. to 7 p.m.
346 HWY 20 WEST, Fonthill (beside E.L. Crossley S.S.)
905-892-0698 • OPEN 7 DAYS A WEEK • 8AM TO 7PM

■ **WEATHER:** Milder and wetter than normal winter expected to continue

The year the weather went wild



BOB TYMCZYSHYN QMI Agency

Niagara residents were buffeted by 100 km/h winds on April 28. The high winds forced the closure of the Garden City Skyway, tore off roofs and toppled trees, causing thousands of dollars in damage in the region. Pictured is a damaged Lexus at Montebello Park in St. Catharines.

DON FRASER
QMI Agency

ST. CATHARINES — From a washout spring to a torrid summer and non-existent early winter, 2011 has been all about extremes.

But there was one happy stand-out for Niagara lost in the dramatic news. You could literally say it was right off the radar.

That's the near-complete lack of smog, said David Phillips, a senior climatologist for Environment Canada.

Co-operating wind and weather patterns gave the region only one smog advisory, on July 2. We usually average 17 per year.

It is likely the lowest figure in recent memory, Phillips said.

"The smog just wasn't there, and I think the reason for it is we had a lot of days with rain," he said. "That helped to scrub the air. I don't know, maybe we're doing something different with the environment, I'd like to hope so."

"Then, I think the standout for me is after April, every month has been warmer than normal," said Phillips. "That's been quite amazing."

Otherwise, it was a year of ongoing weather news coverage as one anomaly succeeded another.

That included perhaps the wettest spring on record, as farmers and fruit growers struggled to get equipment onto their fields. That after a hard winter, with lots of snow and

“The smog just wasn't there, and I think the reason for it is we had a lot of days with rain. That helped to scrub the air. I don't know, maybe we're doing something different with the environment, I'd like to hope so.”

David Phillips, a senior climatologist for Environment Canada

an alarming windstorm April 28 that brought gusts topping well above 100 km/h.

Two died in that windstorm, including one senior who succumbed to his injuries after a tree fell on his car on Maple St. in St. Catharines.

Then from late June to August, everything dried up and the outdoor furnace cranked high.

"There was a thinblefu of rain that fell in the Niagara area," said Phillips. "Then some saving rains came."

Its pinnacle was July 21, the warmest average day temperature on record in Niagara and elsewhere in southwestern Ontario. The St. Catharines-area high was 37.4°C with a sultry nighttime low of 25°C, for an average of 31.2°C that day.

"There's never been a warmer day from Windsor to Niagara to Toronto, if you define it as the mean temperature," said Phillips.

The summer also featured at least two brief tornado warnings in north Niagara and several intense lightning storms, temporarily shutting off power for many residents and businesses.

The fall and winter continued the high-temperature trend.

So far, December has been about 3°C warmer than normal.

A La Nina event in the Pacific Ocean is cooling the waters there, causing weather uncertainty and mostly mild conditions here.

"We've had very little inconvenience by weather this winter season," said Phillips. "There's been scanty snow that goes with the cold temperatures."

The prediction in the coming winter months is for milder-than-normal temperatures, with more precipitation than usual.

"It could be snow or rain," Phillips said. "My sense is ... typically, you'll get this back and forth, some rain and some snow."

"There will be moments where it will be very winter-like, however."

MERRY CHRISTMAS
FROM
THE WHISK & LADLE!

DON'T MISS OUT ON OUR BLOWOUT BOXING DAY SALE! December 27th- January 6th

10-40% off All Merchandise!
thewhiskandladle.ca

306 CANBORO RD. LOCATED IN THE SHOPPES OF RIDGEVILLE 905-892-9262

Do you know someone who would like to receive the

Pelham NEWS
by mail?



The **Pelham NEWS**
Now Available by Mail
EVERY WEEK!

Subscribe for:
\$25.00 for 6 months
\$49.00 for 1 year

WEATHER

Mild temperatures a real plus for Niagara

MYRIANNE FIRTH
PelhamNEWS Staff

WELLAND — While the ball is scheduled to drop this weekend the mercury is expected to rise.

South Niagara residents got a surprise Wednesday morning as flurries filled the sky. Despite it being almost January, the white fluffy flakes have gone almost unseen since winter began.

Though Wednesday's temperatures were cold, they're not expected to stay for long, said Geoff Coulson, a warning preparedness meteorologist for Environment Canada.

"We will see the mercury bounce back up to higher than normal conditions."

Today, Welland is expected to see temperatures hit a high of 0°.

"That's about where we should be for this time of year," Coulson said.

By Friday, temperatures will continue to warm with a high of 5°C and chances of rain.

It will be mild and "quieter weather wise" on Saturday, reaching a high of 3°C on New Year's Eve, Coulson said.

People planning to travel to get to their year-end festivities will be in luck, he added, as conditions on the roadways should remain clear.

The first day of 2012 is expected to reach 9°C with a chance of showers.

"That's well above where we should be," Coulson said, but again people shouldn't count on those temperatures sticking around for long.

By Monday, the mer-

cure will drop. This week's weather has been what Coulson describes as a roller-coaster — and the ups and downs in the thermometer are expected to continue.

January is forecasted to be warmer than normal, but since it is considered to be Niagara's coldest month of the year, Coulson doesn't recommend putting away that parka.

"That doesn't mean we won't see cold snaps," he said of the coming weather.

January is predicted to see normal levels of precipitation, he added, which means more snow and rain are headed this way.

Because of the mild winter Niagara has had so far, Coulson said some people were caught off guard when Wednesday morning brought

a bit of snow and ice patches to roadways.

Niagara Regional Police Staff Sgt. Jim Leigh said there was no influx of fender benders or other incidents due to Wednesday's weather.

He reminded drivers to make sure they adjust their speeds throughout the season depending on road conditions.

mfirth@wellandtribune.ca
Twitter: @mfirthTribune



DAVE JOHNSON Staff Photo
Drivers heading south toward Port Colborne on Hwy. 140 Wednesday morning were greeted with minor snow squalls the closer they got to the city and Lake Erie.



CHARTERED ACCOUNTANTS

DUYNDARD JONES BARKWELL
& COMPANY LLP

CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR NEW PARTNER



Jeff Neill, B.Acc., C.A. (Welland)

Jeff commenced work with the professional team at DJB as a co-op student in 1999. In 2004, he received his C.A. designation after graduating with an Honours Bachelor of Accounting degree from Brock University in the same year. Jeff works in general practice and has experience in providing business, financial and tax consulting services to owner-managed businesses. This includes audit and assurance services to businesses throughout the Niagara Region. Jeff has been active in the profession and the Welland community and currently serves as the Vice-President of the Welland/Pelham Chamber of Commerce.

Big enough to know
SMALL ENOUGH TO CARE

Burlington
Tel: (905) 681-6900
burlind@djbc.com

Fort Erie
Tel: (905) 871-3565
forterie@djbc.com

St. Catharines
Tel: (905) 684-9221
stcatn@djbc.com

Stoney Creek
Tel: (905) 561-2992
screek@djbc.com

Grimby
Tel: (905) 945-5439
grimby@djbc.com

Welland
Tel: (905) 735-2140
welland@djbc.com

Hamilton
Tel: (905) 525-9520
hamilton@djbc.com

Niagara Falls
Tel: (905) 357-5711
nfalls@djbc.com

www.djbc.com

Tim Hudak's Annual New Year's Levee

I invite you to join me at my Annual Levee.
A wonderful chance to catch up with
neighbours and friends as we
welcome in the new year.

Sunday, January 8, 2012
3:30 - 5:00 p.m.

Peninsula Ridge Estates Winery
5600 King St. West
Beamsville

Complimentary snacks
and refreshments will
be available.



Non-perishable goods will be collected on behalf of local charities

For more information call: 1-800-665-3697
or visit www.timhudakmpp.com



Visit your Local Merchants



TEMPERATURES ARE FALLING!

CALL FOR A FREE ESTIMATE ON A
FURNACE & AIR CONDITIONING PACKAGE

WE SERVICE

ALL MAKES & MODELS

- MAINTENANCE
- FURNACES
- AIR
CONDITIONING

BOB REID

Heating & Air Conditioning
Residential - Commercial

905-892-7787

Reduce Your Utility Bills With Energy Efficient Thermal Replacement Windows

- Solid Vinyl Frames & Sashes
- Low E Argon
- Tilt In for Easy Cleaning

Call for a **FREE**
NO OBLIGATION
QUOTE

**Need
Financing?
We can
Help**



**James A.
Fleming**

(905) 835-8062



BREW ON PREMISE

BREW & WINE SUPPLIES

Ron Kazub
BREW MASTER



**FREE SET OF BOTTLES WITH
YOUR FIRST ORDER**

Phone: (905) 892-3133

Toll Free: 1-888-768-9463

Fax: 905-892-9919

wineofpelham@cogeco.net

www.winegarden.ca

**Visit us at 191 Highway 20 East in
Fonthill (at Rice Road)**

**When the electricity fails...
How will you be**

AFFECTED?

**Custom Designed Stand-by Power
Installations to Suit Your Needs**

Cornell Feenstra Electric Ltd.

All Types of Electrical Installation

Pole Line Installation & Aerial Bucket Truck Service

Call: 905-899-2373 • Fax: 905-899-2383

105.1 Ed FM
105.1 Ed FM

Tune in every Thursday Morning
at 8:10 for **Commissos's Fresh Ideas**
on 105.1 Ed FM

SAT & SUN 8AM - 8PM
MON TO FRI 7AM - 9PM

COMMISSO'S FRESH FOODS

Your Healthy Fresh Experience is Here!



Prices effective Friday January 6 through Thursday January 12, 2012

Get back on track with a fresh start at Commissos's!

FEARMANS
FARM INC.



Fresh Boneless
Half Pork Loin



1.99 /lb
4.39/kg



Fresh
Red & Green Leaf,
Iceberg or
Romaine Lettuce
Product of USA

.69 each



Casa Italia
Grandoro

GLUTEN
FREE

Prosciutto Cotto

Extra Lean Italian Ham
Only 4% fat, 21% meat protein.
No phosphate added

Recommended by
WeightWatchers
28g = 1 point

1/2
PRICE

.99 /100g

TASTE THE DIFFERENCE

We only use premium brand bananas like **DOLE** so you
always have great tasting bananas that ripen every time.
100% GUARANTEED.



Bananas
From the Tropics

.39 /lb
.86/kg

FEARMANS
FARM INC.

Fresh Whole
Pork Leg or
Picnic Shoulder



.99 /lb
2.18/kg

It's Sausage Making Time!



CommissosFreshFoods.com



WeightWatchers
100% Whole Wheat
Breads, English
Muffins & Bagels

1.99
360-450g



Yoplait
Creamy Yogurt
Assorted Varieties

16
PACK

3.99
16x100g



Gallo
100% Pure
Olive Oil

SAVE
\$7.00

9.99
3L

**Look for our Flyer Every Thursday in your Daily Paper or Flyer Package
or visit us online at www.CommissosFreshFoods.com**

6161 Thorold Stone Rd., Niagara Falls • **STORE HOURS:** Sat & Sun 8am to 8pm • Mon to Fri 7am to 9pm

■ **TOP STORY OF 2011:** Outbreak deaths, questionable service and a new supervisor

NHS newsmaker of the year

QMI Agency

ST. CATHARINES — It was a year that saw Niagara's hospital network struggle with a deadly *Clostridium difficile* outbreak and endure ongoing public relations challenges.

But it also saw Niagara Health System inch closer to opening its new west St. Catharines hospital and cancer centre.

For its constant appearance in the pages of newspapers, the NHS was named Niagara newsmaker of the year.

For the NHS, 2011 was about ongoing crisis management.

Across Niagara, C. difficile outbreaks were declared at the Greater Niagara General Hospital, St. Catharines General Hospital and Welland County General Hospital — 37 patients with hospital-associated C. difficile infections died.

Only one unit at GNGH remains in outbreak mode.

There were also patient care incidents of concern on hospital properties that were widely reported.

In one, Doreen Wallace fell and broke her leg in the doorway of the Niagara Falls hospital on Oct. 8 after washing her hands at a sanitizer.

She lay on the floor, injured and bleeding, for what the family said was 26 minutes.

Although several staffers helped her, the family said other nurses wouldn't assist Wallace, who is in her 60s. The family said the nurses



Dr. Joanna Hope
document chief of staff

Dr. Sue Matthews
Interim President & CEO

ALLAN BENNER Staff Photo
Niagara Health System interim chief of staff Dr. Joanna Hope is joined by Interim chief executive officer Sue Matthews at Welland hospital in July for the first of daily media briefings to update Niagara on the status of the C. difficile outbreaks at three NHS hospitals.

said there was nothing they could do and they would call for an ambulance.

There were also two prior, similar situations over the summer, involving Niagara Falls Coun. Joyce Morocco and Ridgeway woman Jennifer James. Both were denied care outside the hospital, again with hospital staff telling family members to call 911.

James later died.

The NHS has said steps are being taken to ensure similar incidents aren't repeated.

Meanwhile, controversy continued over the NHS's conversion of the emergency departments at Douglas Memorial and Port Colborne General hospitals to urgent-care centres as part of its hospital improvement plan.

The HIP plan aims to

create so-called centres of excellence by centralizing services at different hospitals.

Also in 2011, NHS interim CEO and president Sue Matthews took over from Debbie Sevenpiper. The reason for Sevenpiper's sudden departure in January — and its financial implications for taxpayers — have never been disclosed.

Then on Aug. 31, Kevin

Smith was named the provincially appointed supervisor to oversee the NHS. Smith has full control of health system operations and is charged with restoring public confidence in the system.

In November, McMaster University professor Terry Flynn's Trust and Reputation Study found that among Niagarans, there's a "significant lack of trust

for the organization" and a "continual feeling of being let down" by the NHS.

But there does remain at least one bright light on the horizon for the NHS.

The new hospital and cancer centre is in its commissioning stage, with interior work underway. Builders are expected to turn the centre over to the NHS by late November next year.



Fonhill Fitness

Make your New Year's Resolution Now



Core



Spinning



Yoga



Weights

Full Gym Membership * All Group Fitness Classes

1440 Pelham Street Fonhill 905 892-4443 \$49.00/ Month Gift certificates available

Why choose when you can have it all !!!

■ **THERAPY TAILS:** Dogs and owners visit

Wagging tails bring joy to Shorthill residents

KATHLEEN CLARK
For PelhamNEWS

PELHAM — No one should be alone on Christmas.

So when members of Therapy Tails Niagara found out many of the residents of a retirement home in Fonthill wouldn't be getting visitors over Christmas, they mobilized their four footed friends to make sure that they would not be the case.

Thirty dogs and twenty-five volunteers — about one-fifth of the group's members — went to Shorthill's Villa Retirement Community on Christmas Eve with festive treats in tow.

"It was fantastic, really," said Tina Hill, founder of Therapy Tails, a group that spreads smiles, boosts confidence, and fends off loneliness by bringing friendly dogs to the young and old.



Supplied photo

Seniors at Shorthills Retirement Home in Fonthill received a visit from some furry friends in the form of 25 therapy dogs from Therapy Tails Niagara on Dec. 24.

ness by bringing friendly dogs to the young and old.

A few dogs and their human handlers visit the residents of the home on a weekly basis, but Hill said the

group thought a little something special was necessary for this time of the year.

"We put this (visit) together in a day," she said. One member posted the call-out

for volunteers on the organization's Facebook page and suddenly 25 people and their canine pets were on board for an afternoon of holiday cheer.

But the small amount of planning brought the folks at Shorthill's a large amount of joy, said Hill. Her volunteers baked cookies, minced pies and other goodies to share with the residents. And of course, there were treats for the dogs as well.

"It's the simplest of things that make people happy," she said. "It's incredible the effect animals have on people."

And that effect is unique from what people have to offer, Hill said.

"With dogs it's always unconditional love. There's no question," she said. "With people you have to get to

With dogs it's always unconditional love. There's no question."

Tina Hill, founder of Therapy Tails

know them. A dog walks in and the (connection) is instant."

Hill hopes the two-year-old charitable organization can take this visit a step further next Christmas. She is looking

into getting a bus to take dogs and their owners around to all the retirement homes in the area.

"Dogs are just so sucky, they will cuddle up and they just want to be loved."

■ **CRIME**

Scum preying on the elderly

PelhamNEWS Staff

ST. CATHARINES — Several Niagara residents have fallen victim to the so-called "Grandparent Scam" in the past couple of weeks, say Niagara Regional Police.

Police say the common scam sees suspects contact the victim by phone pretending to be a grandchild or a lawyer representing a grandchild. The suspects then claim the grandchild has been involved in a crash out of town and require money immediately for legal fees.

The victim is then asked to send money electronically and out of town lawyer and not to tell any other family members about the phone call. If the victim

sends money, the suspects will call again seeking additional money for damage to the other car or medical bills. Police say the suspects are very convincing when making the calls, leaving the victim with a sense of urgency to send money. Anyone receiving such calls is asked to verify with other family members the authenticity of such calls before sending any money. In many cases, victims follow up with family members after the money has been sent only to learn that they have been defrauded.

Anyone with senior or vulnerable family members is asked to inform their relatives about this scam even if the family member resides in a home for seniors.

Anyone who has fallen victim to this scam and sent money is asked to contact Niagara Regional Police

at 905-735-7811 and the Canadian Anti-Fraud Centre (formerly Phonebusters) at 1-888-495-8501.

KID'S HELP PHONE



FREE EMERGENCY CALL
1-800-668-6868

TOLL FREE
24 HOURS A DAY

**RUNAWAY, SICK,
IN DANGER,
IN TROUBLE**

We'll give you something to **SMILE** about!

- Full & Partial Dentures • Emergencies & House Calls
- Free Consultation • Upper & Lower Dentures
- Same Day Repair & Reline Service Available

Horbert Gieger » 905.835-2155



Caltron Concrete & Restoration Limited

- Water Stoppage Inside or Outside Repair
- Parging
- Concrete Repair & New Concrete

5933 Swayze Dr. Phone: 905-374-9087
Niagara Falls, Ontario Cell: 905-328-1463



"Experts in Concrete Problems"

See Our Ad in the Yellow Pages

J & S

• AUTO • TRUCK • INDUSTRIAL REPAIRS



JEFF PIETZ

Telephone • 905-892-4271

278 Canboro Road West
Ridgville, Ont. L0S 1M0

Having Electrical Problems?
Get reliable professional service
at a reasonable price

No Job Is Too Small!

- Service panel upgrades • New wiring-rewiring
- Energy Efficient upgrades • Troubleshooting & Repairs

ACE Electrical

Alex Bover MASTER ELECTRICIAN: abover@acepc.ca ECRAP/003130

905 - 892 - 4988
www.aceelectrical.com



■ VITICULTURE

Wineries begin icewine grape harvest

ANGELA SCAPPATURA
QMI Agency

ST. CATHARINES — While the sudden dip in temperature may be frustrating for some people, at least two Niagara wineries have found solace in the cold.

Workers at Henry of Pelham Winery and Pillitteri Estates Winery were roused from their beds early Thursday morning for the icewine grape harvest as the temperature hit -9°C.

"It's an expensive year for us, but that's the way icewine goes," said Paul Speck, president of the Henry of Pelham Winery in west St. Catharines. He slid his hands into his coat pockets and smiled. "We were glad to get it done because every day we lose more yield."

Just inside the Henry of Pelham processing facility, a forklift gently manoeuvred a barrel-shaped container brimming with a half-tonne of Riesling grapes. It's one of 80 to 90 containers destined for the wine press.

That means about 40 tonnes of grapes were picked this season — a significant decrease from last year's crop of about 200 tonnes.

Speck had expected this year's yield to be smaller. The autumn rain prompted the winery to harvest more of its grapes for table wine. Then, as the mild winter temperatures delayed the harvest, the grapes were threatened by rot, dehydration and predators.

"It's unfortunate, but the good news is, because of the lower yields, the grapes are more concentrated," he said, watching as one of the workers poured some of the thick Riesling grape juice over a refractometer. The small device measures the sugar content in the juice.

"We're looking for at least 36," Speck said. It was 39.8. "This is going to make a really delightful tasting wine."

Pillitteri Estates Winery in Niagara-on-the-Lake opted to pick its delicate Riesling and Cabernet Franc grapes, and left the heartier Vidal grapes on the vine for a more frigid night.



Paul Speck, president of Henry of Pelham Winery, cradles some icewine grapes left on the vine after the overnight harvest.

ANGELA SCAPPATURA QMI Agency

"The red (Cabernet Franc) took a beating this year," said winery president Gary Pillitteri. "If we don't get some of it harvested, it will dry up."

This year has been difficult and different from other years, he said. The red grapes were dehydrated, riper and some started splitting in October.

The mild winter has been frustrating, but Pillitteri said there's still hope for the Vidal grapes still on the vine.

"We are disappointed, but we still say we're in Canada," he said. "The results in the yield will be much, much less but the quality will be more excellent."

While Henry of Pelham and Pillitteri decided to start the harvest, there are dozens of wineries still wait-

ing for that perfect temperature. Wine producers have a window of -8°C to -12°C to pick the icewine grapes.

Frank Hellwig, viticulturist manager at Inniskillin Wines in Niagara-on-the-Lake, prefers to wait until temperatures hover at about -10°C to -12°C.

"We don't pick on the first occasion anyway. We need a couple of freezes to get the character notes we want before we pick," he said. Ideally, Hellwig wants to see a sugar concentration of about 40.

Sue-Anne Staff from Staff Estate Winery in Jordan is another producer who has chosen to wait.

"I just looked at the long-range forecast and Jan. 3 looks pretty good," she said, then laughed. "It's my birthday, so that would be good."



ANGELA SCAPPATURA QMI Agency

Paul Richardson, a worker at Henry of Pelham Winery, checks the sugar level in juice pressed from newly picked icewine grapes. The winery harvested the grapes early Dec. 29.

classifiedextra.ca

Canada's largest and most trusted
print and online classifieds network

Place it on classifiedextra.ca

Phone: 1-866-541-6757

Online: pelhamnews.classifiedextra.ca

Fax: 1-866-485-8461

Email: placeit@classifiedextra.ca

Merchandise

Wanted to Buy

CALL NOW

TOP Dollar for GOLD, TV's, Stereo's, Laptops and DVD's. Best rates on PayPal loans and cash shipping Bonor Money against your car. Cash Direct

220 King St., Welland,
905-786-9000

Real Estate

Rentals

Apartment Unfurnished

1 BDRM in quiet well maintained building. Seniors welcome. No pets. \$745 incl. Call Joen 905-650-0786

OPEN HOUSE

Invite them, Classified Extra

1-866-541-6757

1 BEDROOM \$405 + bks. Available Now. (905)714-1600

2 BDRM APT \$575, all inclusive. Avail. 1st

Lovely suites in mature building. Special amenities, laundry facilities & gym room.

905-460-1692

view.ca.companysrch/rumestvment

www.classified.ca
1-866-541-6757

Apartment Unfurnished

Must See!

2 BDRM newly decorated, lots of closets, with many long term residents \$910 inclusive. Avail. 1st/2nd. 14 Westside Dr., Welland (905)788-3186

HOME

2 BDRM Port Colborne \$850 all bills paid January 1st (905)890-3388 or 905-8324

2 BDRM upper, quiet, fridge included. Quiet, no pets, no smoking, on street parking, bus route, mature tenants, newly painted. \$700 m/h + hydro. First/last req. d. (905)735-2927

2 BDRM Welland, renovated. Downtown, quiet bldg. Call Glenn 905-736-4602

Must See

3 BDRM UPPER, near Quaker School, Avail. Feb. 1 (905)906-0661

Apartment Unfurnished

look what's NEW!

578 CLARE AVE., 2 BDRMS. Close to transit, shopping & park. Quiet well-maintained bldg. Ideal for seniors. Call 905-735-5748

FREE FIRST MONTHS RENT www.genomicproperties.ca

Your search is over Port Colborne 1, 2 & 3 BDRM Starting at \$745.00 inclusive. Quiet, centrally located building with large clean units & laundry facility on site. Close to downtown & shopping. 905-351-7367 to view...

FREE FIRST MONTHS RENT www.genomicproperties.ca

Your search is over Port Colborne 1, 2 & 3 BDRM Starting at \$745.00 inclusive. Quiet, centrally located building with large clean units & laundry facility on site. Close to downtown & shopping. 905-351-7367 to view...

FREE FIRST MONTHS RENT www.genomicproperties.ca

Your search is over Port Colborne 1, 2 & 3 BDRM Starting at \$745.00 inclusive. Quiet, centrally located building with large clean units & laundry facility on site. Close to downtown & shopping. 905-351-7367 to view...

FREE FIRST MONTHS RENT www.genomicproperties.ca

Your search is over Port Colborne 1, 2 & 3 BDRM Starting at \$745.00 inclusive. Quiet, centrally located building with large clean units & laundry facility on site. Close to downtown & shopping. 905-351-7367 to view...

FREE FIRST MONTHS RENT www.genomicproperties.ca

Your search is over Port Colborne 1, 2 & 3 BDRM Starting at \$745.00 inclusive. Quiet, centrally located building with large clean units & laundry facility on site. Close to downtown & shopping. 905-351-7367 to view...

FREE FIRST MONTHS RENT www.genomicproperties.ca

Your search is over Port Colborne 1, 2 & 3 BDRM Starting at \$745.00 inclusive. Quiet, centrally located building with large clean units & laundry facility on site. Close to downtown & shopping. 905-351-7367 to view...

Apartment Unfurnished

FREE FIRST MONTHS RENT www.genomicproperties.ca

Your search is over Port Colborne 1, 2 & 3 BDRM Starting at \$745.00 inclusive. Quiet, centrally located building with large clean units & laundry facility on site. Close to downtown & shopping. 905-351-7367 to view...

FREE FIRST MONTHS RENT www.genomicproperties.ca

Your search is over Port Colborne 1, 2 & 3 BDRM Starting at \$745.00 inclusive. Quiet, centrally located building with large clean units & laundry facility on site. Close to downtown & shopping. 905-351-7367 to view...

FREE FIRST MONTHS RENT www.genomicproperties.ca

Your search is over Port Colborne 1, 2 & 3 BDRM Starting at \$745.00 inclusive. Quiet, centrally located building with large clean units & laundry facility on site. Close to downtown & shopping. 905-351-7367 to view...

FREE FIRST MONTHS RENT www.genomicproperties.ca

Your search is over Port Colborne 1, 2 & 3 BDRM Starting at \$745.00 inclusive. Quiet, centrally located building with large clean units & laundry facility on site. Close to downtown & shopping. 905-351-7367 to view...

FREE FIRST MONTHS RENT www.genomicproperties.ca

Your search is over Port Colborne 1, 2 & 3 BDRM Starting at \$745.00 inclusive. Quiet, centrally located building with large clean units & laundry facility on site. Close to downtown & shopping. 905-351-7367 to view...

FREE FIRST MONTHS RENT www.genomicproperties.ca

Your search is over Port Colborne 1, 2 & 3 BDRM Starting at \$745.00 inclusive. Quiet, centrally located building with large clean units & laundry facility on site. Close to downtown & shopping. 905-351-7367 to view...

FREE FIRST MONTHS RENT www.genomicproperties.ca

Your search is over Port Colborne 1, 2 & 3 BDRM Starting at \$745.00 inclusive. Quiet, centrally located building with large clean units & laundry facility on site. Close to downtown & shopping. 905-351-7367 to view...

Apartment Unfurnished

YOUR PARENTS JUST SOLD THEIR HOME. NOW WHAT?

CONCORDE PLACE Of course. No more climbing stairs. No more mowing the lawn. No shovelling snow. Instead...

A spacious apartment home. Security Freehold!

For a visit please call 905-734-6171 155A Hagar Street.

CAU NOW

RENT TO OWN 3 bdrm. With garage. Bad credit no problem. 1-888-222-0463

WELLAND, 2 bdrm house \$2400. Avail. now. (905)696-3297

SMALL HOUSE for rent. 2 bedroom bungalow, 8 Conc. West-land. Avail. Feb. 1, 905-351-4424.

Halls/ Wedding Rentals

WELLAND OPTIMIST 1 bdrm Apt. Fridge & stove included. 905-714-4408

1 FURNISHED RM. No smking. 1st/2nd/3rd. Cable/Internet \$400/m

1 BDRM APT. \$550/m (905) 786-3215

Houses

What a gem!

3 BDRM, 2 baths, C/A, large eat-in kitchen, main flr laundry. Available now. \$650 + tax/heat (905)736-2955

classifiedextra.ca

Rental Duplex downtown. 2 bdrms w/ 5 peck (incl. bldg. gas heat) pkg. porch & yard. \$740. 1 Bdrm upper, renovated, conv. apt. \$550. Call Glenn at 905-736-4602

CAU NOW

RENT TO OWN 3 bdrm. With garage. Bad credit no problem. 1-888-222-0463

WELLAND, 2 bdrm house \$2400. Avail. now. (905)696-3297

SMALL HOUSE for rent. 2 bedroom bungalow, 8 Conc. West-land. Avail. Feb. 1, 905-351-4424.

Halls/ Wedding Rentals

WELLAND OPTIMIST 1 bdrm Apt. Fridge & stove included. 905-714-4408

1 FURNISHED RM. No smking. 1st/2nd/3rd. Cable/Internet \$400/m

1 BDRM APT. \$550/m (905) 786-3215

BUSINESS & SERVICE DIRECTORY

Home Improvement

Drywall/Plaster

JOHN'S TAPING & Drywall Carpentry, renovations & home repairs. 905-834-5664

Professional Services

Advertise in our classifieds

1-866-541-6757

United Way

NOW more than ever!

Don't give your ad
the wrong kind of shelf life.

Connect with more
potential customers:
call 1-866-541-6757
or visit us online.

Plug into the power of classified newspaper advertising today. Newspaper advertising gets attention, and it gets results. Plus, short lead times and daily publication mean you can keep your advertising current in a medium that attracts readers every day.

classifiedextra.ca

Employment Education A870

General Employment A800

ATTENTION READERS
classifiedextra.ca strongly recommends that readers never send money in response to Employment or Job Opportunity advertisements.

Read it in the classifieds section

Technical/ Trades A870

NOW HIRING

J Oskam Steel Fabricators Limited
Looking for

- Industrial/Commercial Electrician
- O.C. Technician
- Millwright

For resume to: (905)834-9610 or email: chrise@oskam.com or drop off at: 70 Rosedale Ave., Port Colborne L2E7W6

General Employment A800

HELP WANTED
Fraser Marine & Industrial requires "Welder / Fitter/ Minimal Layout Experience" To assist during winter work 2012 Fabricating Shop Marine Experience An Asset Send resume to: Fraser Marine & Industrial 1 Chestnut St. Port Colborne, Ont. L2K 1R3
Attention: Mr. T. Hyska Fax# 905-534-9425
* No phone calls please *

FONTHILL
CARRIERS WANTED
IMMEDIATELY

Route 400
Rolling Meadows & Meadowsale
For more information call
Charlene @ 905-732-2414 ext 270

Canadian Diabetes Association

Today, 1 in 5 people with diabetes survives heart disease.
Help reverse the trend.
Visit getserious.ca

Sponsors:
RBC
NORX
Jifair
SOCIETY OF CANADIAN DIABETES

EDUCATION

LESSONS & Classes A890

Beverly Sneath Art Studio
commissions, portraits, viewing appointments, watercolour and acrylic classes & workshops
1341 Effingham St., Ridgeville
905-892-5868
bevsnearth@yahoo.ca
www.beverlysneath.com

CHECK IT OUT

DANCE AEROBICS
Dance made easy,
Fitness made fun!
Starts January 9th, 2012
A.M. & P.M. Classes
Fonthill and Welland
Special price for Winter!
Bring a friend Super Special!
Call Bonnie @ 289-697-6912
for times and locations.
www.dancecittint.com

Community Services

Person to Person A896

ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS: If you want to drink, there's your business. If you want to quit, that's our business.
905-882-2140

THE CLASSIFIEDS

small ads **BIG** deals



Would you Like to Place an In Memoriam for Your Loved One?

Our staff will be pleased to help you.

CALL 1-866-541-6757



Job Hunting?

Whether you're looking in just your community or across Canada, this is your connection to job listings! Accounting and finance to human resources, sales, marketing and much more! It's all here.

classifiedextra.ca
in print & online
www.classifiedextra.ca
1-866-541-6757

■ DSNB ACADEMY: A mid-term report card

Maturity and respect growing

VICTORIA GRAY
PelhamNEWS Staff

WELLAND — Preparing any and every child for the future can be difficult.

Each child is different and needs an education tailored to his or her own needs. Not every child would fare well in the trades or a high skills major, some want their educational experience to be a way of life.

It's all about culture, developing a culture of belief," says Tom Reynolds, principal of the public school board's DSNB Academy.

District School Board of Niagara started working with the idea of a school whose goal is to steer students toward university and college about three years ago.

Billed as the first school of its type in Canada, DSNB Academy got off to a rocky start. But based on similar experimental schools in



File photo

Four months since opening, the DSNB Academy is making its mark.

In the United States, the plan soon attracted support from Niagara College and Brock University.

First public mention of the concept was made in December 2010 by board chair Kevin Maves at his inaugural address.

But public attention became focused on the nascent educational facility in January when more details about the plan became known.

Originally aimed at students from low-income families who were experiencing difficulty in school, the DSNB plan

sparked provincially debated about potentially stigmatizing Ontario's poor. Provincial and municipal politicians entered the debate, as well as citizens.

As a result of the controversy, the school board altered its plan and dropped the low-income requirement.

The academy has been located in the former Empire school, which had been previously slated for closure by the board.

Students from Empire now attend Plymouth and Mathews public schools in Welland.

Sue Barnett, DSNB's Welland trustee supported the project wholeheartedly from day one and seeing the school's current success thrills her.

"The DSNB has done it," she says. "They are a leader. There is no other school like it in Canada and the Toronto school board is already looking at it and looking at ways to



ROYAL LEPAGE

Niagara Real Estate Centre Inc., Brokerage

Office: 905.734.4545

Cell: 905-651-5143

rbrown@royalpage.ca

www.homesinniagara.com

637 Niagara St., Unit #2

Welland, Ontario

"Selling Throughout Niagara"

copy it. That's pretty amazing."

The school does have certain criteria for admissions, including: parents may not have attended post secondary school.

The board makes exceptions for parents who went back to school later in life, but parents also have to be willing to support their children because the school does have high expectations and does give homework every night.

The school opened its doors in September 2011 in the old Empire Public School building in Welland with two Grade 6 classes and two Grade 7 classes and began to change lives.

"I would have never

guessed the amount of change I have seen in these young ladies and gentlemen," Reynolds says.

The students have matured in many ways, he says. They take their education seriously and most enjoy and are enthusiastic about learning.

The curriculum is the same as at other schools in the DSNB, but Reynolds says the difference is in the extra efforts staff take to mould the students into young adults. The school is all about believing in oneself and persevering, hard work and excellence, but also about mutual respect, he says.

see DSNB | page 16

Notices

A910

Network Classifieds: Advertise Across Ontario or Across the Country!

For more information contact
Your local newspaper

DRIVERS WANTED

AZ DRIVERS (2 yrs. Exp.) AND OWNER-OPERATORS REQUIRED IMMEDIATELY for U.S. Cross Border Domestic. Company Paid, Benefits, Stable & Paid Overtime. Call at 1-800-368-0308 or 905-477-0188 Ext. 299. Email: william@crosscan.ca

All CDL Drivers Wanted. Excellent mileage pay & bonuses. Require valid passport. Deliver new & used vehicles throughout in U.S. & Canada. Pigeonhole training available. Toll-Free 1-855-761-3787.

HELP WANTED

TECHNOLOGIST II - The City of Regina is looking for a Technologist II in the Water Operations Branch. For information and to apply visit Careers Regina.ca. Closing: January 11, 2012.

EMPLOYMENT OPPS.

PART-TIME COSS - Make your own schedule, sell chocolate bars to make \$\$\$, decide where and when you sell, and stop when you want. Toll: 1-800-383-3568.

COAST JUST LIVE! LIVE IT! Agricultural placements in EUROPE, UK, AUSTRALIA AND NEW ZEALAND! Wide range of jobs (1-12 months) averaging experienced incomes up to \$18-30k! Agriculture/animal handling. Book now for spring departures. www.agplacements.com 1-800-360-4415. Canadian farmers looking for an international trainee. Some are also invited to apply for an international trainee.

FOR SALE

#1 HIGH-SPEED INTERNET \$29.95/Month. Absolutely no ports or bundles. Unlimited downloading. Up to 5Mbps download and 500Mbps Upload. ORDER TODAY! At www.4can.ca or CALL TOLL-FREE: 1-888-380-3308.

1000 ISLAND AIRBATS - Travel kit, snow, wheel is heated comfort, 4 models to choose from. Transport Canada certified. More info at www.airbats.ca OR CALL TOLL-FREE 1-888-ARBAT (1-888-247-2838).

SAWMILLS from only \$3897 - MAKE MONEY & SAVE MONEY with your own bandmill - Cut lumber any dimension. In stock ready to ship. FREE Info & DVD. www.NovwoodsSawmills.com/4000T 1-800-566-6699 Ext-400T

CANT GET UP your car? Auto Spinners can help! No alignment consultation. Comprehensive warranty. Can be installed in less than 1 hour. Call now 1-888-951-6550.

Fast Relief for First Night Restless Leg Syndrome and Leg Cramp. Sleep Soundly, Safe with Medication, Proven Results. www.alcan.com 1-800-765-9693.

FRANCHISE OPPS.

Senior Home Care - Make It Your Business! Reach the benefits of a growing demographic. Using Assistance Services is flourishing across Canada. Contact David Potter at 1-855-435-2273 or d.potter@seniorcare.ca. Visit us at seniorcare.ca/franchise

BUSINESS OPPS.

BE YOUR OWN BOSS with Great Canadian Collier Store. Franchise opportunities now available. Call today for details 1-877-586-0123 ext. 229 or visit our website: www.gcsfranchise.com

BUSINESS SERVICES

FREE CLASSIFIED AD to let up to 150 weekly newspapers Across Ontario - Let our show you how. One Stop Does It All! It's Affordable, It's Fast, It's Easy and IT'S EFFECTIVE! Visit www.OneStopClassifiedAds.com or k.maggi@sympatico.ca 1-888-719-2260.

STEEL BUILDINGS

STEEL BUILDINGS END OF SEASON DEALS! Overstock must go - make an offer! FREE DELIVERY in most areas! CALL TO CHECK INVENTORY and FREE BROCHURE - 1-800-669-5111 ext. 170.

AUTOMOTIVE

MOTOR VEHICLE dealers in Ontario MUST be registered with OMVIC. To verify dealer registration or seek help with a complaint, visit www.omvic.on.ca or 1-800-943-6022. If you're buying a vehicle privately, don't become a consumer's victim. Consumers are investors who pose as private individuals, but are actually in the business of selling stolen or damaged vehicles.

PERSONALS

ARE YOU TIRED OF BEING ALONE? Make it your New Year's resolution not to let LOVE RHYTHM IN TROUC TIONS help you find someone wonderful to spend the rest of your life with. www.lovetructions.com CALL 1-877-737-3303 (TOLL-FREE) 1-888-534-8884. Talk now 1-866-311-9640 or 407/407. Meet local single ladies. 1-877-804-5381.

QATING SERVICE-Long-term/short-term relationships. Free or by 1-877-287-5883. Talk with single ladies. Call 407/407 or 1-888-534-8884. Talk now 1-866-311-9640 or 407/407. Meet local single ladies. 1-877-804-5381.

TRUE ADVICE: True clarity! True Psychology! 1-877-342-3038 or 1-800-528-0259 or mobile #593. (16+) \$19/min. www.truepsychics.ca

WANTED

WANTED: OLD TUBE AUDIO EQUIPMENT: 40 years or older. Amplifiers, Stanno, Recording and Theatre Sound Equipment. Hammond organs. Any condition, no floor model consoles. Call Toll-Free 1-800-947-0383 / 519-853-2157.

WANTED: OLD TUBE AUDIO EQUIPMENT: 40 years or older. Amplifiers, Stanno, Recording and Theatre Sound Equipment. Hammond organs. Any condition, no floor model consoles. Call Toll-Free 1-800-947-0383 / 519-853-2157.

FINANCIAL SERVICES

BEGINNING A BAKUPPRT? FINISHING A PROPOSAL? Support your credit with open bank days from \$1K. Up to \$25K with paid up lease mode car. Call Product Financial Corp. CREDIT BAD? CREDIT LOANS & CREDIT. Since 1984. 1-888-552-1947. www.garpenfinancial.com

DOES MONEY \$\$\$ FOR ANY PURPOSE? WE CAN HELP. -Oscar Payments for 75% 1st, 2nd & 3rd. Call Credit Lines, Bad credit, or mortgage arrears OK. Ontario Wide Financial Corp. (LJCF 10717). Toll-Free 1-888-337-7799. www.ontario-widefinancial.com

PAYIN SHOP ONLINE GET CASH FAST! Get or Get a Loan for your Health, Jewelry, Gold, Diamonds, Art or Collectibles - From Helen ONLINE. www.PAYINSHOP.com or Toll-Free 1-902-435-0571

Money Provider.com: \$500 Loan and + No Credit Refused. Fast Easy 100% Secure. 1-877-776-1660.

MORTGAGES

\$55 1st 2nd 3rd MORTGAGES -20 Years Renewal. 0% Orig. Consolidation, no CHMC fees. \$500. over \$250,000.00 (CA) Income, bad credit, power of sale soldout! BETTER OPTION MORTGAGES. 1-800-282-1193. www.mortgagepartner.com (LJCF 10869).

■ DSBN

'We have high expectations in academics and attitude'

FROM PAGE 15

"It's not (achieved) through discipline," Reynolds says. "It's structure," Reynolds says. "We have high expectations in academics and attitude, they come dressed for success."

Barnett thinks respect is the reason the Academy students may have matured so much, so fast. She thinks this mutual respect lets students see themselves, their peers and teachers as people.

"They are being treated with respect at the school and in return they are being told, 'This what we expect of you and this is what happens when you respect others and yourself,'" Barnett says. "I truly believe it's the whole part and parcel (that makes them more mature) the whole program is amazing."

Every morning students from all over Niagara get on buses as early as 7 a.m., bound for the Academy. They arrive at 8:15 a.m. and are greeted at the Doors of

Excellence by Reynolds and another teacher who shake each student's hand, look them in they eye and say, "Good morning." Each student is expected to do the same.

Then the students put their coats away and every staff member and student eats breakfast together. Afterward they sing *O Canada*, listen to announcements and recite their school creed from memory.

A section of the creed reads: "We never fail because we never give up. We make no excuses. We choose to live honestly, respectfully and optimistically. We respect ourselves and in turn respect all people. We have a future for which we are accountable ..."

Reynolds says the creed is intended to instill a culture geared students toward excellence and keeps them focused on their future and helps guide their increasing

maturity.

"To be honest I expected we would have the respect and excellence of students. I didn't know how long it would take to see it," he says. "To see the change in just a few months was pleasantly surprising."

The school also has a mentoring program where teachers sit and talk with a group of no more than 20 students about how each student feels, what's been happening in their lives, what's challenging them at school or whatever. This helps teachers stay in touch with students and their daily needs.

"We understand they have lives and we will try our best to help our young ladies and gentlemen to work around these things," Reynolds says.

The kicker? They have the same mentor from now until the time they graduate from high school, always helping and encouraging them.

Uniforms help them dress for success and teachers have to as well — it's another form of mutual respect according to Reynolds.

The students also attend Encore classes after school for about an hour before getting on buses and eventually making it home as late as 5:30 p.m.

The programs run for seven weeks and students are always enrolled in more than three. Programs range from robotics, to Pay It Forward, a running club, chess and financial literacy. There is something for everyone.

"Is it ever nice to walk into a school and have somebody greet you as you walk in and look you in they eye, shake your hand, tell you their name and welcome you to their school. What a great thing that is," Barnett says.

Reynolds said the school's programs and curriculum have done quite well, in fact better than he expected, but

one thing that students and staff are having trouble with is the length of their day.

"They are tired," Reynolds says. "We try to understand and work around it, it's a long day and we give them homework almost every day."

Students can be sluggish, but the staff are great and find innovative ways to engage them and keep them going.

"They also want to be here, they want to put in that effort," Reynolds says.

He believes the cause is two-fold. The first is staff's commitment and focus on helping the students make it to post-secondary institutions. The second is the breakfast club because it gives staff and students a sense of family and belonging.

"They're still kids, but we are finding that balance between playing and preparing for what lays ahead," Reynolds said.

Parents also have to volunteer 15 hours in the school

to show support for their children and the school community.

"I love it," Reynolds says of this parental involvement. "They add support, ideas, enthusiasm and parents can be great supporters and at the same time be positive critics."

It all leads to one thing — confidence.

Students may not have been able to achieve this level of confidence at other schools and the Academy helps them believe in themselves and give them the strength to rise out of the ranks, whether they come from low-income homes, single parent homes, or any different sociological situation and help make themselves and their communities better.

"We have high expectations for students and they may seem just out of reach, but if the children stretch, they can grab it," he said.

vguy@wellandtribune.ca

SEEING Life Better

Visumax Bladeless Lasik

- High Patient Satisfaction
- Short Procedure Time
- Promotes Quicker Healing
- Safe, Precise & Affordable

Gift Certificates Available

LASIK
provision
The way you want to see

DR. ANDREW TAYLOR, MD
has personally performed
100,000 procedures.

6800 Morrison Street, Niagara Falls
Call 905.371.3217 or 1.888.510.2020
www.lasikprovision.com

BOOK NOW!
LIMITED TIME OFFER

See Now, \$0 0%
Pay Later!
DOWN INTEREST

FREE Preliminary Eye Exam

To see if you are a candidate
for Lasik Surgery

LASIK PROVISION'S GIFT TO YOU!

Limited time offer

